

308. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 307 wherein the output receptacles include a second receptacle, and further including delivering stranger and no call bills to the second output receptacle and wherein suspect bills are delivered to the first output receptacle.

309. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 308 wherein the halting occurs when a bill meeting the no call criterion or the stranger criterion is delivered to the second output receptacle.

REMARKS

Claims 164-311 are pending in the application. Claims 306, 308 and 309 have been amended to correct a typographical error. These amendments do not introduce new matter. Reconsideration of these claims in view of the remarks below is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Applicants have submitted concurrently herewith a Third Information Disclosure Statement and respectfully request that the Examiner review the enclosed references and make them of record.

Provisional Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 164-311 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 164-311 of copending Application No. 09/542,487. Claim 204 has been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 204 of copending Application No. 09/607,019. To obviate the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection, the Applicants are filing a terminal disclaimer herewith. To expedite

prosecution of the application, the Applicants have also included Application Nos. 09/611,279 in the 09/864,423 mentioned in the Office Action in the terminal disclaimer.

Therefore, the Applicants believe that claims 164-311 are in a condition for allowance.

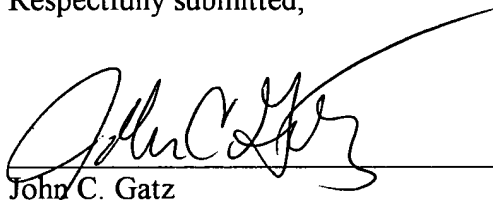
The Applicants have included clean and marked-up versions of the pending claims after entry of this amendment with the mailed copy of this Response.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants submit that the claims are in a condition for allowance and action toward that end is earnestly solicited. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit Account No. 10-0447 (47171-00267USC1) for any fees inadvertently omitted which may be necessary now or during the pendency of this application, except for the issue fee.

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Respectfully submitted,



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U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/541,170

47171-00267USC1

**PENDING CLAIMS AFTER ENTRY OF
RESPONSE TO 11/2/01 OFFICE ACTION**

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164. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:

- receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;
- transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device;
- counting and determining the denomination of the bills utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;
- determining whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion;
- halting the transporting when a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill; and
- wherein the halting is performed such that the flagged bill is positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

2165. The method of claim 164 wherein the counting and determining the denomination of the bills comprises counting and determining United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

3166. The method of claim 164 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

4167. The method of claim 164 further including receiving denominated bills of more than one denomination in at least one output receptacle.

5168. The method of claim 164 wherein the halting occurs when the denomination of a bill is not determined, a bill whose denomination is not determined being termed a no call bill, and wherein the halting of the no call bill is positioned at an identifiable location in one of the output receptacles.

6 ~~169~~ The method of claim ~~164~~¹¹ wherein bills whose denomination are determined are delivered to a first output receptacle and wherein bills whose denomination are not determined are directed to a second output receptacle, a bill whose denomination are not determined being termed a no call bill.

7 ~~170~~ The method of claim ~~169~~⁶ wherein the halting occurs after a no call bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

8 ~~171~~ The method of claim ~~170~~⁷ wherein the halting occurs with the no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in the second output receptacle.

9 ~~172~~ The method of claim ~~171~~⁸ wherein the halting occurs with the no call bill being the last bill transported to the second output receptacle, wherein the criteria is the denomination of a bill and wherein a bill failing to meet the criterion of having its denomination determined is a flagged bill.

10 ~~173~~ The method of claim ~~169~~⁶ wherein the halting occurs before a no call bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

11 ~~174~~ The method of claim ~~173~~¹⁰ wherein the halting occurs with the no call bill being located at an identifiable location within the transport path.

12 ~~175~~ The method of claim ~~164~~¹ further including determining whether a bill is a stranger bill, wherein a bill failing to have its denomination determined is termed a no call bill, and further including delivering stranger bills to a first output receptacle and delivering no call bills to the second output receptacle.

13 ~~176~~ The method of claim ~~164~~¹ further including determining whether a bill is a stranger bill and wherein the non-piece count related criterion is a bill being a stranger bill.

¹²177. The method of claim ¹164 further including determining whether a bill is suspect, a bill determined to be suspect being termed a suspect bill.

¹⁵178. The method of claim ¹⁴177 wherein bills whose denomination have been determined are delivered to a first output receptacle and wherein suspect bills are directed to the second output receptacle.

¹¹⁶179. The method of claim ¹⁵178 wherein the halting occurs before a suspect bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

¹¹⁷180. The method of claim ¹⁶179 wherein the halting occurs with the suspect bill being located at an identifiable location within the transport path.

¹¹⁸181. The method of claim ¹⁵178 wherein the halting occurs after a suspect bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

¹¹⁹182. The method of claim ¹⁸181 wherein the halting occurs with the suspect bill being positioned at an identifiable location in the second output receptacle.

²⁰183. The method of claim ¹⁹182 wherein the halting occurs with the suspect bill being the last bill transported to the second output receptacle, and wherein the non-piece count criterion is a bill being suspect.

²¹184. The method of claim ¹164 wherein the criterion is the denomination of the bill, a bill failing to have its denomination determined being termed a no call bill, and wherein the halting occurs with a no call bill as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

²²185. The method of claim ¹164 wherein the criterion is a bill being a stranger bill, and wherein the halting occurs with a stranger bill as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

²³186. The method of claim ¹164 wherein the criterion is a bill being a suspect bill, and wherein the halting occurs with a suspect bill as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

²⁴187. The method of claim ¹164 wherein a bill failing to have its denomination determined being termed a no call bill, and further determining whether a bill is a suspect bill.

²⁵188. The method of claim ²⁴187 wherein the halting occurs when a bill is determined to be a suspect bill.

²⁶189. The method of claim ²⁵188 further including delivering bills whose denomination have been determined and suspect bills to a first output receptacle and delivering no call bills to a second output receptacle.

²⁷190. The method of claim ²⁶189 further including determining whether bills are stranger bills, and delivering stranger bills to the second output receptacle.

²⁸191. The method of claim ²⁷190 wherein the halting occurs after a no call bill or a stranger bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

²⁹192. The method of claim ²⁸191 wherein the halting occurs with the no call bill or the stranger bill being the last bill transported to the second output receptacle.

³⁰193. The method of claim ²⁹192 wherein the halting does not occur after a no call bill or a stranger bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

³¹194. The method of claim ³⁰193 wherein the halting occurs after a suspect bill has been delivered to an output receptacle.

³²195. The method of claim ²⁴187 further including delivering bills whose denomination have been determined to a first output receptacle and delivering no call bills to a second output receptacle.

~~33~~³² 196. The method of claim ~~195~~³² wherein the halting occurs after a no call bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

~~34~~¹ 197. The method of claim ~~164~~¹ wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

~~35~~¹ 198. The method of claim ~~164~~¹ wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

~~36~~¹ 199. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills and using the currency evaluation device comprising:

- receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;
- transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device along a transport path;
- providing a detector in the currency evaluation device that is positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles, the detector being adapted to generate an output signal;
- counting and determining the denomination of the bills with the use of the output signal;
- determining whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion;
- halting the transporting when a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill; and
- wherein the halting is performed such that a flagged bill is positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

³⁷~~200~~. The method of claim ³⁶~~199~~ wherein the counting and determining the denomination of the bills comprises counting and determining United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

³⁸~~201~~. The method of claim ³⁶~~199~~ wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

³⁹~~202~~. The method of claim ³⁶~~199~~ wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

⁴⁰~~203~~. The method of claim ³⁶~~199~~ wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

⁴¹~~204~~. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills and using the currency evaluation device comprising:

- receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;
- transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device along a transport path;
- counting and determining the denomination of the bills utilizing a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;
- flagging a bill meeting or failing to meet any of a plurality of non-piece count related criteria;
- wherein the flagging comprises halting the transporting of the bills in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet at least one of the criteria, the at least one criteria being termed a halting criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill; and

wherein the halting occurs with a bill satisfying the halting criteria being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

⁴²~~42~~ 205. The method of claim ⁴¹~~204~~ wherein the counting and determining the denomination of the bills comprises counting and determining United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

⁴³~~43~~ 206. The method of claim ⁴¹~~204~~ wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

⁴⁴~~44~~ 207. The method of claim ⁴¹~~204~~ wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

61 ⁴⁵~~45~~ 208. The method of claim ⁴¹~~204~~ wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

⁴⁶~~46~~ 209. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a compact, high-speed United States currency evaluation device comprising:

receiving a stack of United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations in an input receptacle of the currency evaluation device;

transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute;

counting and determining the denomination of the bills including United States bills of a plurality of denominations at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and

flagging bills that meet or fail to meet any of certain non-piece count related criteria, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill; and

wherein the flagging comprises halting the transporting when a bill meets or fails to meet at least one of the criteria.

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47 ~~210~~. The method of claim ~~209~~ further including receiving denominated bills of more than one denomination in at least one output receptacle.

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48 ~~211~~. The method of claim ~~209~~ further including receiving denominated bills of more than one denomination in only one output receptacle.

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49 ~~212~~. The method of claim ~~209~~ wherein the halting occurs with a bill satisfying at least one criteria being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

⁴⁶
50 ~~213~~. The method of claim ~~209~~ wherein one of the certain criteria is the denomination of a bill, a bill failing to meet the criterion of having its denomination determined being termed a no call bill, and wherein no call bills are flagged.

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51 ~~214~~. The method of claim ~~213~~ further including determining whether a bill is a stranger bill, wherein one of the certain criteria is a bill being a stranger bill and wherein stranger bills are flagged.

⁵¹
52 ~~215~~. The method of claim ~~214~~ further including determining whether a bill is a suspect bill, wherein one of the certain criteria is a bill being a suspect bill and wherein suspect bills are flagged.

⁵²
53 ~~216~~. The method of claim ~~215~~ wherein the two output receptacles consist of a first output receptacle and a second output receptacle, and further directing stranger bills and no call bills to the first output receptacle and directing suspect bills to the second output receptacle.

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~~54~~ 217. The method of claim ~~216~~ wherein halting occurs when a no call bill or a stranger bill is delivered to the first output receptacle.

⁵³
~~55~~ 218. The method of claim ~~216~~ wherein halting does not occur when a no call bill or a stranger bill is delivered to the first output receptacle.

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~~56~~ 219. The method of claim ~~209~~ further including determining whether a bill is a stranger bill and wherein one of the certain criteria is a bill being a stranger bill, and wherein stranger bills are flagged.

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~~57~~ 220. The method of claim ~~209~~ further including determining whether a bill is a suspect bill, wherein one of the certain criteria is a bill being a suspect bill and wherein suspect bills are flagged.

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~~58~~ 221. The method of claim ~~209~~ wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

⁴⁶
~~59~~ 222. The method of claim ~~209~~ wherein the halting occurs with a bill that meets or fails to meet the at least one criterion being positioned at an identifiable location in one of the output receptacles.

⁴⁶
~~60~~ 223. The method of claim ~~209~~ wherein the halting occurs with a bill that meets or fails to meet the at least one criterion being positioned at an identifiable location in the transport path.

⁴⁶
~~61~~ 224. The method of claim ~~209~~ wherein the halting occurs with a bill meeting or failing to meet the at least one criterion being located at a predetermined position.

⁴⁶
~~62~~ 225. The method of claim ~~209~~ wherein one of the certain criteria include the denomination of a bill and wherein the halting occurs when a bill fails to meet a criterion of having its denomination determined, a bill failing to meet the criterion of having its denomination determined being termed a no call bill.

⁶²
~~63~~ 226. The method of claim ~~225~~ wherein the halting occurs with a no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in one of the output receptacles.

⁶²
~~64~~ 227. The method of claim ~~225~~ wherein the halting occurs with a no call bill being located at a predetermined position.

⁶²
~~65~~ 228. The method of claim ~~225~~ further including delivering bills meeting the certain criteria of having their denomination determined to a first output receptacle and directing no call bills to a second output receptacle.

⁶⁵
~~66~~ 229. The method of claim ~~228~~ wherein the halting occurs before a no call bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

⁶⁵
~~67~~ 230. The method of claim ~~228~~ wherein the halting occurs after a no call bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

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~~68~~ 231. The method of claim ~~230~~ wherein the halting occurs with a no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in the second output receptacle.

⁶⁸
~~69~~ 232. The method of claim ~~231~~ wherein the halting occurs with a no call bill being the last bill transported to the second output receptacle.

⁴⁶
~~70~~ 233. The method of claim ~~232~~ further including determining whether bills are suspect bills and wherein the halting occurs when a bill meets a criterion of being determined to be a suspect bill.

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~~71~~ 234. The method of claim ~~233~~ further including delivering bills whose denominations have been determined to a first output receptacle and delivering suspect bills to a second output receptacle.

⁷¹
~~72~~235. The method of claim ~~234~~ wherein the halting occurs after a suspect bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

⁷²
~~73~~236. The method of claim ~~235~~ wherein the halting occurs with a suspect bill being positioned at an identifiable location in the second output receptacle.

⁷³
~~74~~237. The method of claim ~~236~~ wherein the halting occurs with the suspect bill being the last bill transported to the second output receptacle.

⁷¹
~~75~~238. The method of claim ~~234~~ further including delivering bills whose denomination have not been determined to the second output receptacle.

⁷⁵
~~76~~239. The method of claim ~~238~~ wherein the halting occurs in response to the denomination of a bill not being determined.

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~~77~~240. The method of claim ~~234~~ further including delivering bills whose denomination have not been determined to the first output receptacle.

⁴⁴
~~78~~241. The method of claim ~~209~~ wherein the certain criteria include the denomination of a bill and wherein the halting occurs when a bill fails to meet a criterion of having its denomination determined, a bill failing to meet a criterion of having its denomination determination being termed a no call bill, and further including determining whether bills are suspect.

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~~79~~242. The method of claim ~~241~~ wherein the halting occurs when a bill meets a second criterion of being determined to be suspect.

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~~80~~243. The method of claim ~~242~~ further including delivering bills whose denomination have been determined to a first output receptacle and directing bills determined to be suspect and bills whose denomination have not been determined to a second output receptacle.

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~~81~~ 244. The method of claim ~~243~~ wherein the halting occurs after a no call bill or a suspect bill has been delivered to the second output receptacle.

⁸¹
~~82~~ 245. The method of claim ~~244~~ wherein the halting occurs with the no call bill or the suspect bill being the last bill transported to the second output receptacle.

⁷⁸
~~83~~ 246. The method of claim ~~241~~ further including delivering bills whose denomination have been determined to a first output receptacle and directing bills whose denomination have not been determined to a second output receptacle.

⁸³
~~84~~ 247. The method of claim ~~246~~ further including delivering suspect bills to the second output receptacle.

⁸³
~~85~~ 248. The method of claim ~~246~~ further including delivering suspect bills to the first output receptacle.

⁴⁶
~~86~~ 249. The method of claim ~~209~~ wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

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~~87~~ 250. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:

- receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;
- transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device;
- counting and determining the denomination of the bills utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;
- flagging a bill when the denomination of the bills is not determined;

wherein the flagging comprises halting the transporting when a bill is flagged; and delivering bills that have been denominated including bills of a plurality of denominations to a first output receptacle.

88 251. The method of claim ⁸⁷250 wherein the counting and determining the denominations of the bills comprising counting and denominating United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

89 252. The method of claim ⁸⁷250 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

90 253. The method of claim ⁸⁷250 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

91 254. The method of claim ⁸⁷250 wherein the halting occurs with the bill whose denomination has not been determined being the last bill transported to one of the output receptacles.

92 255. The method of claim ⁸⁷250 further including delivering bills that have not been denominated to a second output receptacle.

93 256. The method of claim ⁹²255 further including re-stacking denominated bills in a first output receptacle and re-stacking bills which have not been denominated in the second output receptacle.

94 257. The method of claim ⁸⁷250 wherein the detector includes a stationary optical scanning head, and further including scanning at least a preselected segment of each bill transported between the input and output receptacles along the transport path by the stationary optical scanning head, producing an output signal from the stationary optical scanning head representing the scanned

image, and wherein the determining of the denomination of each scanned bill utilizes the output signal.

95 ⁸⁷258. The method of claim 250 wherein the transporting is performed at a rate of at least about 800 bills per minute.

96 ⁸⁷259. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:

- receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;
- transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device;
- counting and determining the denomination of the bills utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and
- determining whether the bills are suspect;
- flagging a bill that has been determined to be suspect; and
- wherein the flagging comprises halting the transport mechanism when a bill is determined to be suspect.

97 ⁹⁶260. The method of claim 259 wherein the counting and determining the denominations of the bills comprising counting and denominating United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

98 ⁹⁶261. The method of claim 259 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

99 ⁹⁶262. The method of claim 259 wherein the halting occurs with the suspect bill being the last bill transported to one of the output receptacles.

100 ⁹⁶263. The method of claim 259 wherein the detector includes a stationary optical scanning head and further including scanning at least a preselected segment of each bill transported between the input and output receptacles, producing an output signal representing the

scanned image, and wherein the determining of the denomination of each scanned bill utilizes the output signal.

101 264. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a high-speed United States currency evaluation device comprising:

receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the currency evaluation device;

transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute, at least one of the output receptacles being adapted to receive more than one denomination of bills;

counting and determining the denomination of the bills including United States bills of a plurality of denominations at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute, utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and

61 flagging bills that meet or fail to meet any of certain non-piece count related criteria, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill; and

wherein the flagging comprises halting the transporting with a flagged bill that meets or fails to meet at least a given set of the criteria positioned in one of the output receptacles.

102 265. The method of claim 101 264 wherein the halting occurs with a flagged bill being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

103 266. The method of claim 101 264 wherein the halting occurs with a flagged bill being located at a predetermined position.

104 267. The method of claim 101 264 wherein the certain criteria include the denomination of a bill, a bill failing to meet a criterion of having its denomination determined being termed a no call bill.

105 268. The method of claim 104 267 further including determining whether a bill is a stranger bill and wherein the certain criteria include a bill being a stranger bill.

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106 269. The method of claim 268 further including delivering no call bills to a first output receptacle and delivering stranger bills to a second output receptacle.

¹⁰⁵
107 270. The method of claim 268 further including determining whether a bill is a suspect bill and wherein the certain criteria include a bill being a suspect bill.

¹⁰⁷
108 271. The method of claim 270 further including directing no call bills and stranger bills to a second output receptacle and directing suspect bills to the first output receptacle.

¹⁰⁸
109 272. The method of claim 271 wherein the halting occurs when a bill is directed to the second output receptacle.

¹⁰⁸
110 273. The method of claim 271 wherein the halting does not occur when a bill is directed to the second output receptacle.

¹⁰¹
111 274. The method of claim 264 further including delivering flagged bills to the second output receptacle.

¹⁰¹
112 275. The method of claim 264 further including determining whether a bill is a stranger bill and wherein the certain criteria include a bill being a stranger bill.

¹⁰¹
113 276. The method of claim 264 further including determining whether a bill is a suspect bill and wherein the certain criteria include a bill being a suspect bill.

¹⁰¹
114 277. The method of claim 264 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

¹⁰¹
115 278. The method of claim 264 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

¹⁰¹
~~116~~ 279. The method of claim ~~264~~ wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

¹¹⁷ 280. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:

- receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;
- transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device along a transport path;
- counting and determining the denomination of the bills, utilizing at least one detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;
- generating a characteristic information output signal in response to detected characteristic information via the detector;
- electronically coupling the characteristic information output signal;
- receiving the characteristic information output signal;
- generating a denomination signal in response to the information output signal;
- producing tracking signals in response to the physical movement of the bills;
- generating a no call signal when the denomination of a bill is not determined;
- generating a stopping signal in response to the no call signal;
- stopping a transport drive motor in response to the stopping signal; and
- directing the bills which have been denominated to a first output receptacle.

¹¹⁷
~~118~~ 281. The method of claim ~~280~~ wherein the counting and determining the denominations of the bills comprising counting and denominating United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

¹¹⁷
~~119~~ 282. The method of claim ~~280~~ wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

120 ~~283~~¹¹⁷ The method of claim ~~280~~¹¹⁷ wherein the stopping occurs with the bill whose denomination has not been determined being the last bill transported to one of the output receptacles.

121 ~~284~~¹¹⁷ The method of claim ~~280~~¹¹⁷ further including directing bills which have not been denominated to a second output receptacle.

122 ~~285~~¹²¹ The method of claim ~~284~~¹²¹ further including re-stacking denominated bills in the first output receptacle and re-stacking bills which have not been denominated in the second output receptacle.

61 123 ~~286~~¹¹⁷ The method of claim ~~280~~¹¹⁷ further including generating a scanned pattern from each of the bills based on the characteristic information output signal, determining the denomination of a bill by comparing the scanned pattern generated from the bill with master patterns associated with different denominations of bills, and storing the master patterns.

124 ~~287~~¹²³ The method of claim ~~286~~¹²³ wherein the detector comprises an optical scanhead and wherein the scanned and master patterns comprise optical patterns.

125 ~~288~~¹²⁴ The method of claim ~~287~~¹²⁴ further including correlating the scanned pattern generated from the bill with master patterns associated with different denominations of bills and determining the denomination of the bill if the scanned pattern sufficiently correlates with one of the master patterns.

126 ~~289~~¹¹⁷ The method of claim ~~280~~¹¹⁷ wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

127 ~~290~~¹¹⁷ The method of claim ~~280~~¹¹⁷ wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the

plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

¹²⁸ 291. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:

- receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;
- transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device;
- counting and determining the denomination of the bills utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;
- generating a characteristic information output signal in response to detected characteristic information via the detector;
- electronically coupling the characteristic information output signal;
- receiving the characteristic information output signal;
- generating a denomination signal in response to the information output signal;
- generating a suspect signal when a bill is determined to be suspect;
- producing tracking signals in response to the physical movement of the bills;
- generating a stopping signal in response to the suspect signal; and
- stopping a transport drive motor in response to the stopping signal.

¹²⁹ 292. The method of claim ¹²⁸ 291 wherein the counting and determining the denomination of the bills comprises counting and determining United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

¹³⁰ 293. The method of claim ¹²⁸ 291 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

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~~131~~¹²⁸ 294. The method of claim 291 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

¹²⁸
~~132~~¹²⁸ 295. The method of claim 291 wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.

¹²⁸
~~133~~¹²⁸ 296. A method of evaluating a stack of currency bills using a currency evaluation device comprising:

- receiving a stack of bills in an input receptacle of the evaluation device;
- transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of exactly two output receptacles of the currency evaluation device;
- counting and determining the denomination of the bills utilizing a detector positioned along a transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;
- halting the transporting in a predetermined manner in response to a determination that a bill meets a stranger bill criterion and in response to a determination that a bill meets a no call bill criterion; and
- wherein a bill which meets the stranger bill criterion is termed a stranger bill, and wherein a bill which meets the no call bill criterion is termed a no call bill.

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~~134~~¹³³ 297. The method of claim 296 wherein the counting and determining the denominations of the bills comprising counting and denominating United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

¹³³
~~135~~¹³³ 298. The method of claim 296 wherein the counting and determining of the currency bills is performed independent of the size of the bills.

¹³³
136~~299~~. The method of claim ~~296~~¹³³ wherein the transporting, counting and determining of the currency bills is performed at a rate in excess of 800 bills per minute.

¹³³
137~~300~~. The method of claim ~~296~~¹³³ further including permitting manual removal of a no call or a stranger bill after halting the transporting.

¹³³
138~~301~~. The method of claim ~~300~~¹³³ further comprising restarting the operation of the device via a key after halting the transporting.

¹³³
139~~302~~. The method of claim ~~296~~¹³³ wherein the halting occurs with the bill meeting the stranger bill or non call bill criterion being positioned in one of the output receptacles.

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¹³³
140~~303~~. The method of claim ~~296~~¹³³ wherein the halting occurs with the bill meeting the stranger bill or no call bill criterion being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

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141~~304~~. The method of claim ~~296~~¹³³ wherein the halting occurs with the bill meeting the stranger bill or no call bill criterion being located at a predetermined position.

¹³³
142~~305~~. The method of claim ~~296~~¹³³ further including directing denominated currency bills of more than one denomination to at least one of the output receptacles.

¹³³
143~~306~~. The method of claim ~~296~~¹³³ wherein the output receptacles include a second receptacle, and further including delivering the bills meeting the stranger bill or no call bill criterion to the second output receptacle.

¹³³
144~~307~~. The method of claim ~~296~~¹³³ further including determining whether bills are suspect and wherein one of a criterion is a bill being a suspect bill.

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~~145~~ 308. The method of claim ~~307~~ wherein the output receptacles include a second receptacle, and further including delivering stranger and no call bills to the second output receptacle and wherein suspect bills are delivered to the first output receptacle.

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~~144~~ 309. The method of claim ~~308~~ wherein the halting occurs when a bill meeting the no call criterion or the stranger criterion is delivered to the second output receptacle.

¹³³
~~147~~ 310. The method of claim ~~296~~ wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

¹³³
~~148~~ 311. The method of claim ~~296~~ wherein the determining of the denomination of bills includes denominating currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations, and further including scanning the image associated with each of the bills and distinguishing among the plurality of denominations using the scanned image.